

## SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

**Notice** is hereby given of a  
Special Meeting of Council to be held at  
Bungaree Community Facility,  
279 Bungaree-Wallace Road, Bungaree  
on Wednesday 3 June 2015,  
commencing at 5:00 p.m.

### Members:

Cr. Paul Tatchell (Mayor)	Central Ward
Cr. Allan Comrie	East Moorabool Ward
Cr. David Edwards	East Moorabool Ward
Cr. John Spain	East Moorabool Ward
Cr. Tonia Dudzik	East Moorabool Ward
Cr. Tom Sullivan	West Moorabool Ward
Cr. Pat Toohey	Woodlands Ward

### Officers:

Mr. Rob Croxford	Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Phil Jeffrey	General Manager Infrastructure
Mr. Satwinder Sandhu	General Manager Growth and Development
Mr. Danny Colgan	General Manager Community Services

**Rob Croxford**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## AGENDA

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**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY**

**We respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, their spirits and ancestors.**

**3. PRESENT**

**4. APOLOGIES**

## 5. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under the Local Government Act (1989), the classification of the type of interest giving rise to a conflict is; a direct interest; or an indirect interest (section 77A and 77B). The type of indirect interest specified under Section 78, 78A, 78B, 78C or 78D of the Local Government Act 1989 set out the requirements of a Councillor or member of a Special Committee to disclose any conflicts of interest that the Councillor or member of a Special Committee may have in a matter being or likely to be considered at a meeting of the Council or Committee.

Definitions of the class of the interest are:

- a direct interest
  - (section 77A, 77B)
- an indirect interest (see below)
  - indirect interest by close association (section 78)
  - indirect financial interest (section 78A)
  - indirect interest because of conflicting duty (section 78B)
  - indirect interest because of receipt of gift(s) (section 78C)
  - indirect interest through civil proceedings (section 78D)

### Time for Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

In addition to the Council protocol relating to disclosure at the beginning of the meeting, section 79 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) requires a Councillor to disclose the details, classification and the nature of the conflict of interest immediately at the beginning of the meeting and/or before consideration or discussion of the Item.

Section 79(6) of the Act states:

While the matter is being considered or any vote is taken in relation to the matter, the Councillor or member of a special committee must:

- (a) leave the room and notify the Mayor or the Chairperson of the special committee that he or she is doing so; and
- (b) remain outside the room and any gallery or other area in view of hearing of the room.

The Councillor is to be notified by the Mayor or Chairperson of the special committee that he or she may return to the room after consideration of the matter and all votes on the matter.

There are important reasons for requiring this disclosure immediately before the relevant matter is considered.

- Firstly, members of the public might only be in attendance for part of a meeting and should be able to see that all matters are considered in an appropriately transparent manner.
- Secondly, if conflicts of interest are not disclosed immediately before an item there is a risk that a Councillor who arrives late to a meeting may fail to disclose their conflict of interest and be in breach of the Act.

## 6. PRESENTATIONS / DEPUTATIONS

The Council has made provision in the business of the Special Meeting of the Council for the making of presentations or deputations to Council in relation to matters presented on the agenda for Council consideration.

Presentations or deputations are required to be conducted in accordance with the requirements contained within the **Presentation/Deputations Protocols and Procedural Guidelines**.

Persons wishing to make a presentation or deputation to the Council on a matter included in the agenda shall inform Council by 1pm on the Friday prior to the meeting by contacting the Chief Executive Officer's Office and registering their name and agenda item being spoken to.

At the meeting the Mayor will invite the persons wishing to make a presentation or delegation to address the Council on the agenda item.

The person making the presentation or deputation is to stand and address the Council on the item. No debate on the item is permitted between the person making the presentation or delegation and the Council.

A maximum of three minutes per presentation or delegation will be allocated. An extension of time may be granted at the discretion of the Mayor.

Councillors, through the Mayor, may ask the person making the presentation or delegation for clarification of matters presented.

The Mayor may direct that a member of the gallery ceases speaking if the above procedure is not followed.

**List of Persons making Presentations/Deputations other than in relation to a planning item listed on the agenda:**

**As listed.**

## **7. BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2015/16 Annual Budget**

#### **Introduction**

File No.: 07/01/014A  
Author: Steve Ivelja  
General Manager: Phil Jeffrey

#### **Background**

This report relates to the process for Council to adopt the 2015/16 Annual Budget in accordance with section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989 (The Act). The process includes giving public notice to allow 28 days for submissions to be made by members of the public and such submissions to be heard prior to Council adopting the 2015/16 Annual Budget.

Council commenced statutory procedures dealing with the 2015/16 Annual Budget at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 22 April 2015. At this meeting, Council resolved to put on public display the Proposed 2015/16 Annual Budget.

A public notice was published in %The Moorabool News+ on Tuesday, 28 April 2015 and also in %The Courier+ in Ballarat on Saturday, 25 May 2015. These public notices called for submissions to the proposed budget.

The proposed 2015/16 budget has been prepared in accordance with Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) and part 3 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 (the Regulations).

As a result of this advertising process, 4 written submissions were received by 25 May 2015 for consideration by Council. The following is a summary of the submissions that have been received:

No.	Submission From	Main Points	Response
1	Anita Gary	<p>I am writing to note my concern with the proposed budget increase and a lack of any spending on services particularly for youth in the Bacchus Marsh area. I read the document and see that the large youth population was noted. It appears to me that this population and the forecast growth, is not being addressed by the council. We still have no Youth Centre in Bacchus Marsh or an Aquatic Centre. What opportunities does the council aim to provide for youth in our shire? This population will only increase as many young families have moved to the area. Why is there no allocated budget to the building of a youth centre or the provision of youth recreation services outside of sporting facilities?</p>	<p><i>In the 2013 – 2014 financial year, the net cost to Moorabool Shire Council for the provision of Youth Services was \$170,000. In the 2015 – 2016 financial year, Council will expend \$252,000 for Youth Service provision. This increase has resulted in the employment of an additional full time Youth Services Development Officer, taking the Youth Services team to 3 EFT.</i></p> <p><i>Council has also committed \$20,000 to engage consultants to undertake a Youth Space feasibility study which will explore the need and will;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>provide the rationale for future decision making and provision of a Youth Facility</i></li> <li><i>identify social and economic benefits of a Youth Facility</i></li> <li><i>investigate and identify an appropriate framework for a Youth Facility (multipurpose or stand - alone) including facility component requirements</i></li> <li><i>outline predicted usage</i></li> <li><i>suggest required management model associated with the proposed facility and;</i></li> <li><i>assess and provide recommendations regarding funding model.</i></li> </ul>
2	The Neighbours Place (TNP)	<p>The Neighbours' Place (TNP) would like to submit that the annual operational grant provided by the Shire should be reviewed and the level of the grant increased.</p> <p>TNP is a multi-denominational Christian not-for-profit emergency food service. TNP is not a government funded and receives no federal or state funding. It relies on the kindness of others for donations of goods, services and money. TNP services visitors from all</p>	<p><i>The submission demonstrates that the annual CPI increase is no longer meeting the needs of this service, due to increasing demand from social and economic factors, as well as population growth. This service does not receive any other state or federal government funding and are reliant on fundraising and donations. The Council supports a number of community service organisations, for example Community Houses. Supporting The Neighbours Place to increase its</i></p>



	<p>over Moorabool Shire -: Ballan, Greendale, Blackwood, Gordon and other outlying areas. No-one is turned away.</p> <p>In 2010 . 2011 Council decided to make its funding of TNP more certain and determined to make the operating grant a permanent expenditure item. The value of the grant was initially set at \$5,500, including GST. The grant has subsequently been indexed annually by the movement in the CPI. The grant allocated in 2014 - 2015 totaled \$6,591.53, including GST.</p> <p>The Shire currently provides TNP with a grant to assist us with our operating of an emergency food relief service to the citizens of Bacchus Marsh and surrounding areas. Our aim is to provide emergency food to people within the Moorabool Shire who are disadvantaged, at risk or unable temporarily to feed themselves or their family. TNP also provides no-interest loans, tax help and counselling. TNP not only offers food relief, and Christmas Hampers, it also offers no-interest loans to those who cannot access normal credit card facilities, it provides referrals for families to other support agencies such as CAFS, and it provides tax help and counselling to all in a non-judgmental manner.</p> <p>The Shire's operating grant is an important source of funding for our activities however at its current level it only constitutes a little over 12 per cent of our funding needs. Although this is helpful unfortunately the demand for our services, and our costs, are outstripping CPI as they are more closely tied to the population growth and the general health of the economy. The number of clients serviced by TNP has increased by over 30 per cent in the past 3 years. The</p>	<p><i>grant to \$8,200 would make this comparable to the grants of other services the Council supports.</i></p>
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		<p>operating grant has only increased by around 12 per cent. Given the forecast population growth for Moorabool in coming years and the likely rise in unemployment and a stagnating economy it is expected that the gap between our costs and the grant will continue to widen. As a result the proportion of our costs being met by the Shire's grant will fall below the current 12 per cent.</p> <p>Moorabool are receiving a value, or return on investment, of over 4 to 1 from the funding provided by the grant. Adding the value of the time and effort of volunteers and in-kind donations from local businesses would justify an even higher investment in TNP.</p> <p>We respectfully submit that a review of the level of funding provided to us through the operating grant. The information supplied above would justify an increase of 25 per cent, to \$8,200 including GST for the 2015 - 2016 year. An increase of this magnitude would only restore the Shire's proportion of our total costs.</p>	
3	Chris Sharkey	<p>The submission asks council to address two key issues of concern;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Under the LGA 3C(1) objectives of a council. The primary objective of a council is to achieve the best outcome for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions.</li> </ol> <p>Question: How does council intend to achieve long term outcomes for the community with rates continuing to rise by 5% when inflation is only running at 1.3% by basing council decisions using an inflation rate of 3%. How is this sustainable and in the best interests of the community?</p>	<p><i>In 2015/16, general rates will increase by 5.0%. To offset this increase, waste service charges will reduce by 2.25% in 2015/16. As a result, overall rates and charges will increase by an average of 4.1%. This increase will allow council to maintain existing service levels, fund a number of new initiatives and continue to allocate additional funds to Shire's infrastructure program which is required to service a growing community.</i></p>

			<p><i>The 2015/16 Proposed Budget has been premised on a 2.3% CPI increase. The projected CPI of 2.3% is conservative when compared to the 15/16 Victorian State Budget projections and the 15/16 Federal Budget projections which have forecast the Consumer Price Index to increase by 2.75% and 2.5% respectively in 2015/16.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the pressures of inflation, population growth within the Shire is projected to be robust for the foreseeable future with population growth projections in excess of 2.5% per annum year on year. In spite of this continued growth, council has also been significantly impacted by reductions in Financial Assistance Grants (FAG's), and an environment where government funding continues to remain flat.</i></p> <p><i>To assist with planning in a longer term framework, Moorabool Shire Council also has a Strategic Financial plan. As per the Strategic Financial plan, Council has projected CPI of 3% for future planning purposes for all years beyond 2015/16. This index is broadly consistent with both State and Federal Budget future projections and is broadly consistent with historical CPI projections in Australia over the last 10 years. Most importantly however, it must be stressed that the projections contained in councils strategic resource plan are a strategic guide only and council is not bound by the assumptions contained in the future years of the strategic financial plan, which can change from year to year. The annual budget process and the parameters contained within (including annual rate increases) are the responsibility for the council to determine as part of the annual budget process on a year by year basis.</i></p>
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	<p>2. Farm Rate Numbers. To date still no resolution to this question which was taken on notice 12 months ago.</p> <p>Question: From a budgetary point of view, how does council provide transparency with its rate payer base when numbers within a rating strategy are flawed?</p> <p>If Council believes it is too difficult to identify accurate farm business numbers, then how and when did council decide to use farm numbers of 480 in a recent waste management strategy adopted by council in September 2014?</p>	<p><i>It is agreed that Council does not have accurate information relating to the number of farming enterprises within the Shire. Council currently assesses 1,491 rateable assessments as eligible to receive a farm rate.</i></p> <p><i>Leading up to the 2014/15 Budget, Council conducted a review of the Municipal Rate Strategy which has now been adopted for a period of 2 years. During this review there were a range of discussions regarding the number of 'true' farm properties in the Shire as compared to the number of properties currently receiving the farm rate.</i></p> <p><i>The number of farm properties quoted by Council (1,491 assessments) is significantly higher than the number put forward by the former Rural Advisory Committee (412 farming enterprises) which is based on data from the 2011 ABS Agricultural census.</i></p> <p><i>In recognition of the issues tabled as part of the Rating Strategy review, officers have been undertaking a progressive review of properties that are eligible to receive the farm rate. The progressive review will be scheduled over a number of years and will be supported by an updated reapplication process. The process will continue in the 2015/16 year and the process be initially applied to all farm assessments that are either sold or subject to ownership changes.</i></p> <p><i>A project to accelerate this project was not recommended to proceed in the new initiatives section of the budget draft.</i></p> <p><i>The Moorabool Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy was specifically quoting the number of Businesses by different Industries within the Shire and as such was quoting data publically available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).</i></p>
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			<i>Moorabool Shire does not collect data relating to the number of farm businesses nor businesses by industry profile and as such relies on data provided by the ABS.</i>
4	Judith Bailey	<p>A number of Councils are looking at LED street lights as they have a number of financial benefits due to their low energy use, low maintenance costs and long lifetimes. However, they can have serious unintended environmental, ecological and health consequences so that thought and planning need to be put in before commencing a LED street lighting program.</p> <p>I note that Moorabool does not have a Street Lighting Policy which could recommend the most energy efficient light fittings to be used. I suggest that before any Street Lights are renewed, a new policy could be developed to include energy efficient, environmental and health impacts of light at night.</p> <p>The current LED lighting that are being trialed in some Councils is white-light LEDs and they emit a large component of blue light so that their light is referred to as blue-rich white light. Recent research in a variety of fields such as epidemiology, astronomy, land conservation and biology, as well as vision and lighting indicates potential serious consequences to such blue-rich white light at night. Unfortunately, such research seems to be generally ignored by the lighting industry. For example, the MAV Procurement recommended Sylvania 25W LED Street Light module has a correlated colour temperature of 5000K, indicating an exceptionally large emission in the blue part of the spectrum.</p> <p>Potential problems due to blue-rich white light at night:</p>	<p><i>The development of a Street Lighting Policy is currently in progress and will be presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 June 2015 for adoption. Whilst the policy refers to energy efficient lighting, it doesn't specifically reference a particular luminaire type.</i></p> <p><i>A Council Plan action into the 2015/16 financial year is to review Council's position in relation to energy efficient street lighting. This will include consideration of upfront costs, associated payback period, options regarding financing and consideration of luminaire type. Mrs. Bailey's feedback will be taken into consideration during this review.</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environment . the large blue component gives a greater contribution to sky glow than warmer coloured light.</li><li>• Ecology . the large blue component of the light has a disturbing impact on insects and on nocturnal animals.</li><li>• Visibility . due to the large blue component of the light extra glare is perceived from the street lights reducing visibility for all. This is especially the case for older people whose eyes are likely to have yellowing lenses so that much of the blue light does not reach into their eyes.</li><li>• Human Health . blue light at night suppresses the hormone melatonin disturbing the normal human circadian rhythm as well as the immune system. There is now considerable evidence indicating that light at night, especially blue light, is a risk factor for breast and prostate cancer.</li></ul> <p>A useful document outlining these issues is provided by the International Dark-Sky Association Victoria at <a href="http://www.darkskyvic.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SeeingBlue.pdf">http://www.darkskyvic.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SeeingBlue.pdf</a></p> <p>As mentioned above, it is recommended that Council considers developing a Street Lighting Policy. Afterwards Council should look at independently sourcing LED street lights with a warmer colour (correlated colour temperature of 3000K) in order to minimise the potentially dangerous emission of blue light in suburban streets and into the bedrooms of residents. Ideally, the street lights should include control gear that in the future, (Geelong Council are</p>	
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		<p>planning for this) they could be dimmed or even switched off late at night when there is little pedestrian or vehicular traffic that require them. Also shields for lighting are an important requirement to reduce light pollution, some current light fittings when wet actually increase the dispersion of light upwards, increasing glare. Moving towards a policy to turn off unnecessary lighting after 12 midnight, France has such a policy, would be a precedent in Victoria and help to keep the night sky as dark as possible.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this aspect of the budget. I would be happy to present to the Council in person or to meet with appropriate members of Council staff.</p>	
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The following parties have indicated their intention to be heard in support of their written submissions:

- Jackie Tabone - The Neighbours Place, Bacchus Marsh
- Chris Sharkey - Balliang East
- Judith Bailey - Ballarat Observatory Advisory Committee, Clarendon

### **Policy Implications**

The 2013 - 2017 Council Plan provides as follows;

<b>Key Result Area</b>	Continuous Improvement in Council Services
<b>Objective</b>	Sound, long term financial management
<b>Strategy</b>	Develop and maintain a long term financial planning, management and reporting system, which ensures resources to deliver services and manage Council's assets.

The proposal is consistent with the 2013-2017 Council Plan.

### **Financial Implications**

The 2015/16 Budget contains details of the financial resources required to deliver the 2013 - 2017 Council Plan.

### **Communications Strategy**

Following adoption of the 2015/16 Annual Budget, advertisement of the adoption of the budget will be provided through a public notice in local newspapers and the full 2015/16 Annual Budget document will be posted on the website.

Submitters will be responded to individually.

### **Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006**

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

### **Officer's Declaration of Conflict of Interests**

Under section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 (as amended), officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.



*General Manager – Phil Jeffrey*

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

*Author – Steve Ivelja*

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

**Conclusion**

Council's consideration of budget submissions is a statutory step necessary to formally adopt the 2015/16 Annual Budget for Moorabool Shire Council and forward it to the Minister.

**Recommendation:****1. That Council receives the following submissions:**

No.	Submission From	Main Points	Response
1	Anita Gary	<p>I am writing to note my concern with the proposed budget increase and a lack of any spending on services particularly for youth in the Bacchus Marsh area. I read the document and see that the large youth population was noted. It appears to me that this population and the forecast growth, is not being addressed by the council. We still have no Youth Centre in Bacchus Marsh or an Aquatic Centre. What opportunities does the council aim to provide for youth in our shire? This population will only increase as many young families have moved to the area. Why is there no allocated budget to the building of a youth centre or the provision of youth recreation services outside of sporting facilities?</p>	<p>In the 2013 – 2014 financial year, the net cost to Moorabool Shire Council for the provision of Youth Services was \$170,000. In the 2015 – 2016 financial year, Council will expend \$252,000 for Youth Service provision. This increase has resulted in the employment of an additional full time Youth Services Development Officer, taking the Youth Services team to 3 EFT.</p> <p>Council has also committed \$20,000 to engage consultants to undertake a Youth Space feasibility study which will explore the need and will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide the rationale for future decision making and provision of a Youth Facility</li> <li>• identify social and economic benefits of a Youth Facility</li> <li>• investigate and identify an appropriate framework for a Youth Facility (multipurpose or stand - alone) including facility component requirements</li> <li>• outline predicted usage</li> <li>• suggest required management model associated with the proposed facility and;</li> <li>• assess and provide recommendations regarding funding model.</li> </ul>

2	The Neighbours Place (TNP)	<p>The Neighbours' Place (TNP) would like to submit that the annual operational grant provided by the Shire should be reviewed and the level of the grant increased.</p> <p>TNP is a multi-denominational Christian not-for-profit emergency food service. TNP is not a government funded and receives no federal or state funding. It relies on the kindness of others for donations of goods, services and money. TNP services visitors from all over Moorabool Shire -: Ballan, Greendale, Blackwood, Gordon and other outlying areas. No-one is turned away.</p> <p>In 2010 – 2011 Council decided to make its funding of TNP more certain and determined to make the operating grant a permanent expenditure item. The value of the grant was initially set at \$5,500, including GST. The grant has subsequently been indexed annually by the movement in the CPI. The grant allocated in 2014 - 2015 totaled \$6,591.53, including GST.</p> <p>The Shire currently provides TNP with a grant to assist us with our operating of an emergency food</p>	<p><i>The submission demonstrates that the annual CPI increase is no longer meeting the needs of this service, due to increasing demand from social and economic factors, as well as population growth. This service does not receive any other state or federal government funding and are reliant on fundraising and donations. The Council supports a number of community service organisations, for example Community Houses. Supporting The Neighbours Place to increase its grant to \$8,200 would make this comparable to the grants of other services the Council supports.</i></p>
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	<p>relief service to the citizens of Bacchus Marsh and surrounding areas. Our aim is to provide emergency food to people within the Moorabool Shire who are disadvantaged, at risk or unable temporarily to feed themselves or their family. TNP also provides no-interest loans, tax help and counselling. TNP not only offers food relief, and Christmas Hampers, it also offers no-interest loans to those who cannot access normal credit card facilities, it provides referrals for families to other support agencies such as CAFS, and it provides tax help and counselling to all in a non-judgmental manner.</p> <p>The Shire's operating grant is an important source of funding for our activities however at its current level it only constitutes a little over 12 per cent of our funding needs. Although this is helpful unfortunately the demand for our services, and our costs, are outstripping CPI as they are more closely tied to the population growth and the general health of the economy. The number of clients serviced by TNP has increased by over 30 per cent in the past 3 years. The operating grant</p>	
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	<p>has only increased by around 12 per cent. Given the forecast population growth for Moorabool in coming years and the likely rise in unemployment and a stagnating economy it is expected that the gap between our costs and the grant will continue to widen. As a result the proportion of our costs being met by the Shire's grant will fall below the current 12 per cent.</p> <p>Moorabool are receiving a value, or return on investment, of over 4 to 1 from the funding provided by the grant. Adding the value of the time and effort of volunteers and in-kind donations from local businesses would justify an even higher investment in TNP.</p> <p>We respectfully submit that a review of the level of funding provided to us through the operating grant. The information supplied above would justify an increase of 25 per cent, to \$8,200 including GST for the 2015 - 2016 year. An increase of this magnitude would only restore the Shire's proportion of our total costs.</p>	
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3	Chris Sharkey	<p>The submission asks council to address two key issues of concern;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Under the LGA 3C(1) objectives of a council. The primary objective of a council is to achieve the best outcome for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions.</li></ol> <p>Question: How does council intend to achieve long term outcomes for the community with rates continuing to rise by 5% when inflation is only running at 1.3% by basing council decisions using an inflation rate of 3%. How is this sustainable and in the best interests of the community?</p>	<p>In 2015/16, general rates will increase by 5.0%. To offset this increase, waste service charges will reduce by 2.25% in 2015/16. As a result, overall rates and charges will increase by an average of 4.1%. This increase will allow council to maintain existing service levels, fund a number of new initiatives and continue to allocate additional funds to Shire's infrastructure program which is required to service a growing community.</p> <p>The 2015/16 Proposed Budget has been premised on a 2.3% CPI increase. The projected CPI of 2.3% is conservative when compared to the 15/16 Victorian State Budget projections and the 15/16 Federal Budget projections which have forecast the Consumer Price Index to increase by 2.75% and 2.5% respectively in 2015/16.</p> <p>In addition to the pressures of inflation, population growth within the Shire is projected to be robust for the foreseeable future with population growth projections in excess of 2.5% per annum year on year. In spite of this continued growth, council has also been significantly impacted by reductions in Financial Assistance Grants</p>
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		<p>(FAG's), and an environment where government funding continues to remain flat.</p> <p>To assist with planning in a longer term framework, Moorabool Shire Council also has a Strategic Financial plan. As per the Strategic Financial plan, Council has projected CPI of 3% for future planning purposes for all years beyond 2015/16. This index is broadly consistent with both State and Federal Budget future projections and is broadly consistent with historical CPI projections in Australia over the last 10 years. Most importantly however, it must be stressed that the projections contained in councils strategic resource plan are a strategic guide only and council is not bound by the assumptions contained in the future years of the strategic financial plan, which can change from year to year. The annual budget process and the parameters contained within (including annual rate increases) are the responsibility for the council to determine as part of the annual budget process on a year by year basis.</p> <p><i>It is agreed that Council does not have accurate information relating to the number of farming enterprises within the Shire. Council currently assesses 1,491 rateable assessments as eligible to receive a farm rate.</i></p> <p><i>Leading up to the 2014/15 Budget, Council conducted a review of the Municipal Rate Strategy which has now been adopted for a period of 2 years. During this review there were a range of discussions regarding the number of 'true' farm properties in the Shire as compared to the number of properties currently receiving the farm rate. The number of farm properties quoted by Council (1,491 assessments) is significantly higher than the number put forward by the former Rural Advisory Committee (412 farming enterprises) which is based on data from the 2011 ABS Agricultural census.</i></p>
	<p><b>2. Farm Rate Numbers.</b> To date still no resolution to this question which was taken on notice 12 months ago.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> From a budgetary point of view, how does council provide transparency with its rate payer base when numbers within a rating strategy are flawed?</p>	

		<p>If Council believes it is too difficult to identify accurate farm business numbers, then how and when did council decide to use farm numbers of 480 in a recent waste management strategy adopted by council in September 2014?</p>	<p><i>In recognition of the issues tabled as part of the Rating Strategy review, officers have been undertaking a progressive review of properties that are eligible to receive the farm rate. The progressive review will be scheduled over a number of years and will be supported by an updated reapplication process. The process will continue in the 2015/16 year and the process be initially applied to all farm assessments that are either sold or subject to ownership changes.</i></p> <p><i>A project to accelerate this project was not recommended to proceed in the new initiatives section of the budget draft.</i></p> <p><i>The Moorabool Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy was specifically quoting the number of Businesses by different Industries within the Shire and as such was quoting data publically available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Moorabool Shire does not collect data relating to the number of farm businesses nor businesses by industry profile and as such relies on data provided by the ABS.</i></p>
4	Judith Bailey	<p>A number of Councils are looking at LED street lights as they have a number of financial benefits due to their low energy use, low maintenance costs and long lifetimes. However, they can have serious unintended environmental, ecological and health consequences so that thought and planning need to be put in before commencing a LED</p>	<p><i>The development of a Street Lighting Policy is currently in progress and will be presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 June 2015 for adoption. Whilst the policy refers to energy efficient lighting, it doesn't specifically reference a particular luminaire type.</i></p> <p><i>A Council Plan action into the 2015/16 financial year is to review Council's position in relation to energy efficient street lighting. This will include consideration of upfront costs, associated payback period, options regarding financing and consideration of luminaire type. Mrs. Bailey's feedback will be taken into consideration during this review.</i></p>



	<p><b>street lighting program.</b></p> <p><b>I note that Moorabool does not have a Street Lighting Policy which could recommend the most energy efficient light fittings to be used. I suggest that before any Street Lights are renewed, a new policy could be developed to include energy efficient, environmental and health impacts of light at night.</b></p> <p><b>The current LED lighting that are being trialed in some Councils is white-light LEDs and they emit a large component of blue light so that their light is referred to as blue-rich white light. Recent research in a variety of fields such as epidemiology, astronomy, land conservation and biology, as well as vision and lighting indicates potential serious consequences to such blue-rich white light at night. Unfortunately, such research seems to be generally ignored by the lighting industry. For example, the MAV Procurement recommended Sylvania 25W LED Street Light module has a correlated colour temperature of 5000K, indicating an exceptionally large emission in the</b></p>	
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		<p><b>blue part of the spectrum.</b></p> <p><b>Potential problems due to blue-rich white light at night:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Environment</b> – the large blue component gives a greater contribution to sky glow than warmer coloured light.</li><li>• <b>Ecology</b> – the large blue component of the light has a disturbing impact on insects and on nocturnal animals.</li><li>• <b>Visibility</b> – due to the large blue component of the light extra glare is perceived from the street lights reducing visibility for all. This is especially the case for older people whose eyes are likely to have yellowing lenses so that much of the blue light does not reach into their eyes.</li><li>• <b>Human Health</b> – blue light at night suppresses the hormone melatonin disturbing the normal human circadian rhythm as well as the immune system. There is now considerable evidence indicating that light at night, especially blue light, is a risk</li></ul>	
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	<p><b>factor for breast and prostate cancer.</b></p> <p><b>A useful document outlining these issues is provided by the International Dark-Sky Association Victoria at <a href="http://www.darkskyvic.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SeeingBlue.pdf">http://www.darkskyvic.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SeeingBlue.pdf</a></b></p> <p><b>As mentioned above, it is recommended that Council considers developing a Street Lighting Policy. Afterwards Council should look at independently sourcing LED street lights with a warmer colour (correlated colour temperature of 3000K) in order to minimise the potentially dangerous emission of blue light in suburban streets and into the bedrooms of residents. Ideally, the street lights should include control gear that in the future, (Geelong Council are planning for this) they could be dimmed or even switched off late at night when there is little pedestrian or vehicular traffic that require them. Also shields for lighting are an important requirement to reduce light pollution, some current light</b></p>	
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	<p><b>fittings when wet actually increase the dispersion of light upwards, increasing glare. Moving towards a policy to turn off unnecessary lighting after 12 midnight, France has such a policy, would be a precedent in Victoria and help to keep the night sky as dark as possible.</b></p> <p><b>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this aspect of the budget. I would be happy to present to the Council in person or to meet with appropriate members of Council staff.</b></p>	
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2. That Council takes into consideration the matters raised within the submissions in its consideration of the 2015/16 Annual Budget at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Wednesday 3 June 2015.
3. That following the adoption of the 2015/16 Annual Budget, responses are provided to each Submitter.

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**Report Authorisation**

**Authorised by:**

**Name:** Phil Jeffrey

**Title:** General Manager Infrastructure

**Date:** Thursday, 28 May 2015



# Attachment - Item 7.1

# Submission 1: Anita Gary

Page 1 of 1



Anita Gary completed Make a Submission  
Moorabool Shire Council  
to:

30/04/2015 07:04 PM  
Hide Details

To ensure privacy, images from remote sites were prevented from downloading. Show Images History: This message has been forwarded.

Anita Gary just submitted the survey 'Make a Submission' with the responses below.

## Name

Anita Gary

## Organisation / group

Moorabool resident

## Address

## Contact Number

**Any person / persons who have made a written submission to the Council are entitled to appear in person or by a person acting on his / her behalf before a meeting of the Council. Please note: If you select YES to attend or to have someone attend on your behalf, Council will provide notice of the time and place for the meeting to the presenter of the submission. Do you wish to appear in person or by a person acting on your behalf before a Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday, 3 June 2015 from 5.00pm in support of your written submission?**

No

**I / We under S.223 of The Local Government Act (Right to make submission) are hereby making a formal written submission in relation to the 2015/2016 proposed budget. Please document your written submission within the space provided below.**

I am writing to note my concern with the proposed budget increase and a lack of any spending on services particularly for youth in the Bacchus Marsh area. I read the document and see that the large youth population was noted. It appears to me that this population and the forecast growth, is not being addressed by the council. We still have no youth centre in Bacchus Marsh or an aquatic centre. What opportunities does the council aim to provide for youth in our shire? This population will only increase as many young families have moved to the area. Why is there no allocated budget to the building of a youth centre or the provision of youth recreation services outside of sporting facilities?

**Alternatively, upload your submission or additional information here.**

No Answer

# Submission 2: The Neighbours Place

## Budget Submission Form

Budget submissions must be received no later than the close of business on Monday, 25 May 2015, addressed to: *The Chief Executive, Budget Submission, Moorabool Shire Council, P.O Box 18, Ballan Vic. 3342.*

**Note:** Submitters need to be aware that submissions are public documents and form part of the meeting agenda and minutes. Therefore, budget submissions cannot be suppressed and will become part of the public record.

Contact details of person / groups of persons making a written submission under S.223 of the Local Government Act.

Name: The Neighbour's Place (TNP) MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL  
 Organisation / group (optional): JACKIE TABONE CENTRAL RECORDS  
 Address: 22 MAY 2015  
 Contact number: File No. 07/01/014A

Any person / persons who have made a written submission to the Council are entitled to appear in person or by a person acting on his / her behalf before a meeting of the Council.

Do you wish to appear in person or by a person acting on your behalf before a Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday, 3 June 2015 from 5.00pm in support of your written submission?

Please tick: Yes ☒ No ☐

If you have chosen yes, Council will provide notice of the time and place for the meeting to the presenter of the submission.

I / We under S.223 of The Local Government Act (Right to make submission) are hereby making a formal written submission in relation to the 2015/2016 proposed budget.

Please document your written submission within the space provided (if you require more space please attach additional pages to this form).

### SUMMARY OF YOUR SUBMISSION

The Neighbours' Place (TNP) would like to submit that the annual operational grant provided by the Shire should be reviewed and the level of the grant increased.

The Shire currently provides TNP with a grant to assist us with our operating of an emergency food relief service to the citizens of Bacchus Marsh and surrounding areas. The grant allocated in 2014 – 2015 totaled \$6,591.53, including GST. The value of the Grant less the GST was \$5,992.30.

Historically the Shire has provided funding to support the work of TNP for many years. Initially this was provided on a year by year basis. In 2010 – 2011 Council decided to make its funding of TNP more certain and determined to make the operating grant a permanent expenditure item. The value of the grant was initially set at \$5,500, including GST. The grant has subsequently been indexed annually by the movement in the CPI.

TNP is a multi-denominational Christian not-for-profit emergency food service. Our aim is to provide emergency food to people within the Moorabool Shire who are disadvantaged, at risk or unable temporarily to feed themselves or their



family. TNP also provides no-interest loans, tax help and counselling. It is our view that these services are an essential cornerstone for any vibrant, inclusive and equitable community. I would like to think that most citizens of the Shire, and the Council, would agree that we provide a valuable and necessary service within the Shire. If TNP did not exist it is highly likely that there would be some demands and expectations that the Shire might provide something similar.

Councillors may not be aware that TNP not only offers food relief, and Christmas Hampers, it also offers no-interest loans to those who cannot access normal credit card facilities, it provides referrals for families to other support agencies such as CAFS, and it provides tax help and counselling to all in a non-judgemental manner. TNP is always happy to welcome visitors to its home. Visitors come from all over Moorabool: Ballan, Greendale, Blackwood, Gordon and other outlying areas. No one is turned away.

The Shire's operating grant is an important source of funding for our activities however at its current level it only constitutes a little over 12 per cent of our funding needs. The remaining funding is obtained through a range of sources including base level support from the 5 founding churches, fund raising by volunteers, applications to philanthropic trusts, the Magistrates Court and donations from private citizens.

As you might understand much of this funding is highly uncertain. On behalf of TNP I apply for numerous grants each year with the hope that a least one will be successful. This hope is not always fulfilled. Apart from the base level donations made by the churches, the Shire's operating grant is TNP's only certain funding. At a little over 12 per cent of our annual costs the current grant makes us vulnerable to our own financial headwinds, particularly as competition for charitable trusts increases.

As the township of Bacchus Marsh, and the broader shire, grows so does the demand for our services and our cost structures. The operating grant is indexed in line with the CPI. Although this is helpful unfortunately the demand for our services, and our costs, are outstripping CPI as they are more closely tied to the population growth and the general health of the economy. The number of clients serviced by TNP have increased by over 30 per cent in the past 3 years. The operating grant has only increased by around 12 per cent. Given the forecast population growth for Moorabool in coming years and the likely rise in unemployment and a stagnating economy it be expected that the gap between our costs and the grant will continue to widen. As a result the proportion of our costs being met by the Shire's grant will fall below the current 12 per cent.

TNP is not a government funded and receives no federal or state funding. It relies on the kindness of others: grants, local business, service clubs, schools, its own fund raising and the general public for donations of goods, services and money.

Given the careful management, and independent fund raising efforts of TNP, the people of Moorabool are receiving a value, or return on investment, of over 4 to 1 from the funding provided by the grant. Adding the value of the time and effort of volunteers and in-kind donations from local businesses the actual value provided to clients would be even higher. It is our contention that TNP provides the Shire, and its citizens, with a return on investment that would justify an even higher investment in TNP.

We respectfully submit that a review of the level of funding provided to us through the operating grant. The information supplied above would justify an increase of 25 per cent, to \$8,200 including GST for the 2015 – 2016 year. An increase of this magnitude would only restore the Shire's proportion of our total costs.

I can be conducted on the above numbers should you require any additional information.

# Budget Submission Form

**RECEIVED**

Budget submissions must be received no later than the close of business on **Monday 25 May 2015**, addressed to:

**The Chief Executive, Budget Submission, Moorabool Shire Council, PO Box 18, Ballan, Vic. 3342**

**Note:** Submitters need to be aware that submissions are public documents and form part of the meeting agenda and minutes. Therefore, budget submissions cannot be suppressed and will become part of the public record.

File No. 07/01/014A

Contact details of person / groups of persons making a written submission under S.223 of the Local Government Act.

Name: Chris Sharkey  
Organisation / group (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Any person / persons who have made a written submission to the Council are entitled to appear in person or by a person acting on his / her behalf before a meeting of the Council.

Do you wish to appear in person or by a person acting on your behalf before a Special Meeting of Council on **Wednesday 3 June 2015** from 5.00pm in support of your written submission?

Please tick:

Yes  
No

☒  
☐

If you have chosen yes, Council will provide notice of the time and place for the meeting to the presenter of the submission.

I / We under S.223 of The Local Government Act (Right to make submission) are hereby making a formal written submission in relation to the 2015/2016 proposed budget.

Please document your written submission within the space provided (if you require more space please attach additional pages to this form).

## SUMMARY OF YOUR SUBMISSION

please see attached.

PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER FOR MORE WRITING SPACE – DETAILS / COMMENTS

## Moorabool Shire Council 2015 Budget submission

This submission asks Council to address two key issues of concern;

- 1) Under the LGA 3C (1) objectives of a Council. The primary objective of a Council is to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions.

**Question** How does Council intend to achieve long term outcomes for the community with rates continuing to rise by 5% when inflation is only running at 1.3% by basing Council decisions using an inflation rate of 3% How is this sustainable and in the best interests of the community?

- 2) Farm rate numbers. To date still no resolution to this question which was taken on notice over 12 months ago.

**Question** From a budgetary view point, how does Council provide transparency with its rate payer base when numbers within a rating category are flawed?

If Council believe it too difficult to identify accurate farm business numbers, then how and when did Council decide to use farm numbers of 480 in a recent waste management strategy adopted by Council in September 2014.

## Submission 4: Judith Bailey

The Chief Executive Officer  
Budget Submission  
Moorabool Shire Council  
PO Box 18  
Ballan VIC 3342

[info@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moorabool.vic.gov.au)

Re: Asset Renewal

A number of Councils are looking at LED street lights as they have a number of financial benefits due to their low energy use, low maintenance costs and long lifetimes. However, they can have serious unintended environmental, ecological and health consequences so that thought and planning need to be put in before commencing a LED street lighting program.

I note that Moorabool does not have a Street lighting Policy which could recommend the most energy efficient light fittings to be used. I suggest that before any Street Lights are renewed, a new policy could be developed to include energy efficient, environmental and health impacts of light at night.

The current LED lighting that are being trialed in some Councils is white-light LEDs and they emit a large component of blue light so that their light is referred to as blue-rich white light. Recent research in a variety of fields such as epidemiology, astronomy, land conservation and biology, as well as vision and lighting indicates potential serious consequences to such blue-rich white light at night. Unfortunately, such research seems to be generally ignored by the lighting industry. For example, the MAV Procurement recommended Sylvania 25W LED Street Light module has a correlated colour temperature of 5000K, indicating an exceptionally large emission in the blue part of the spectrum.

Potential problems due to blue-rich white light at night:

**Environment** – the large blue component gives a greater contribution to sky glow than warmer coloured light.

**Ecology** – the large blue component of the light has a disturbing impact on insects and on nocturnal animals.

**Visibility** – due to the large blue component of the light extra glare is perceived from the street lights reducing visibility for all. This is especially the case for older people whose eyes are likely to have yellowing lenses so that much of the blue light does not reach into their eyes.

**Human health** – blue light at night suppresses the hormone melatonin disturbing the normal human circadian rhythm as well as the immune system. There is now considerable evidence indicating that light at night, especially blue light, is a risk factor for breast and prostate cancer.

A useful document outlining these issues is provided by the International Dark-Sky Association Victoria at <http://www.darkskyvic.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SeeingBlue.pdf>

As mentioned above, it is recommended that Council considers developing a Street lighting Policy. Afterwards Council should look at independently sourcing LED street lights with a warmer colour (correlated colour temperature of 3000K) in order to minimise the potentially dangerous emission of blue light in suburban streets and into the bedrooms of residents. Ideally, the street lights should include control gear that in the future, (Geelong Council are planning for this ) they could be dimmed or even switched off late at night when there is little pedestrian or vehicular traffic that require them. Also shields for lighting are an important requirement to reduce light pollution, some current light fittings when wet actually

increase the dispersion of light upwards, increasing glare. Moving towards a policy to turn off unnecessary lighting after 12 midnight. France has such a policy, would be a precedent in Victoria and help to keep the night sky as dark as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this aspect of the budget. I would be happy to present to the Council in person or to meet with appropriate members of Council staff.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Bailey

Clarendon

Ballarat Observatory Advisory Committee

Council member, International Dark-Sky Association Victoria Inc.

**8. FURTHER BUSINESS AS ADMITTED BY UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL**

**9. CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC****Recommendation:**

That pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989, the meeting now be closed to members of the public to enable the meeting to discuss matters, which the Council may, pursuant to the provisions of Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) resolve to be considered in Closed Session, being a matter contemplated by Section 89(2) of the Act, as follows:

- (a) personnel matters;
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- (c) industrial matters;
- (d) contractual matters;
- (e) proposed developments;
- (f) legal advice;
- (g) matters affecting the security of Council property;
- (h) any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person;
- (i) a resolution to close the meeting to members of the public

## **10. MEETING CLOSURE**